

FOR UNCLE SAM'S FAVOR.

Men and Women Who Figure
in an International Contest.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—A veteran diplomatist who has served in nearly every capital of the world, is quoted as saying that he would never accept as a member of his staff an under secretary who had been stationed at Washington.

"The young dogs," he said, "receive more attention at the American capital than Ambassadors would in London or Paris, and are so petted and spoiled that it takes half a lifetime to whip them into shape."

It is true, indeed, that the Diplomatic Corps is the most conspicuous feature of society in Washington, which is explained by the charm that glitter and tinsel, gold lace and nodding plumes have for the average republican.

The Diplomatic Corps has grown greatly

many years, and that its establishment should have made so little difference, are now matters of comment. To Senator Hoar of Massachusetts more than to any other person is due the credit that the law providing for Ambassadors was finally passed, although it devolved upon a Democratic President, Mr. Cleveland, to give effect to the action of Congress.

Seven Governments are now represented by Ambassadors at Washington—Germany, Russia, Mexico, Italy, Great Britain, Austria-Hungary and France. The Ambassadors take precedence of the Ministers Plenipotentiary and Envoys Extraordinary, and rank, according to the official code generally accepted here, after the Vice-President and before the Cabinet.

The late Lord Pauncefoot was the first

of the old diplomacy. The anxiety of England and Germany to acquire the friendship of Uncle Sam has been a matter of frequent comment, and as a step toward this end King Edward appointed the present British Ambassador, showing by this selection the tact and adroitness for which he is famous.

No other member of the British diplomatic service is so well equipped to cultivate friendly relations between his own and this Government as the present British Ambassador. He is a member of a family that for generations has taken an active part in the history of the State, a man of cleverness, tact and culture, whose mar-

spected in official circles and generally liked in society.

His staff was devoted to him, he entertained assiduously and handsomely, was punctilious in all social observances and seemed to be above all criticism. These many recommendations, however, did not serve to save his official head, which the Emperor promptly chopped off when he was ready to replace him.

Dr. von Holleben's alleged mistakes were seized upon by the Emperor as an excuse to summon him to Germany and to appoint as temporary head of the embassy, Freiherr Speck von Sternburg, Minister and Envoy on extraordinary mis-

and the same reasons that inspired the appointment of one were responsible for the naming of the other. For State reasons, however, Emperor William did not appoint Baron von Sternburg Ambassador to this country. It is an open secret, however, that at the end of three months, Dr. von Holleben will be retired—his friends in this country hope with a fat pension—and will be succeeded by Baron von Sternburg, who will be promoted to the rank of Ambassador.

Dr. von Holleben's staff, which was loyal and devoted to him, has, curiously enough, been entirely changed. One by one the secretaries and attachés have received leave of absence for a long period, but it is generally understood that none of them will be returned here.

The Secretary of the embassy, Count von Quad-Wydrad-Isny, the son of one of the mediatized families in Germany, and a man of pronounced ability, has been promoted and will be sent to another post. Baron von Ritter has a leave of absence, and the only remaining members of the staff are Count von Montgelas, the third secretary, who has been at the embassy hardly more than a year, Lieut. von Brodow, Commander Schaefer, Major von Eitel and Herr Schreck, who are recent appointments.

The present dean of the corps is Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, who has been stationed in Washington since 1898, and is a trained diplomatist. It is a matter of complaint among some of his colleagues that he has adopted the rank of an Ambassador—a rank which only the wife of an Ambassador is entitled to—has practically that position, because as the daughter of the dean, she invariably accompanies him to social and official functions and it is not an easy matter to separate a young woman from her escort, especially when that escort is her father.

Count Cassini's immediate predecessors were not popular at this capital, and the prestige Russia enjoyed while M. de Struve represented the Muscovite Empire here, and his tactful wife was at the head of the legation, was entirely lost. It was to

and Señor Aspiroz's sterling qualities won him the place among his colleagues which he deserves. Señora de Aspiroz is the doyenne of the Diplomatic Corps. She is a woman of much dignity, whose health in

to his son a large fortune. Signor Mayor studied at the college of Moncalieri in Piedmont, at the University of Turin and at Heidelberg, and on completing his studies in 1875 entered the diplomatic



SIR MICHAEL HERBERT, BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

In size and importance since the foundation of the Government, at which period the authorities were troubled at the indifference and delay shown by foreign nations in recognizing the nation born on this side of the water. The Diplomatic Corps in Washington's administration would make a sorry showing beside the imposing body which now represents the foreign Governments at this capital.

It is only ten years since we added the rank of Ambassador to our foreign service or received Ambassadors here. For more than twenty years an effort had been made to persuade Congress to authorize the

Ambassador to present his credentials to this Government and until his death was the dean of the Diplomatic Corps. He was succeeded by Dr. von Holleben, the oldest Ambassador, according to length of service. Dr. von Holleben is now on leave of absence. It is an open secret that he will never return to this country, and there is a variety of opinions regarding the treatment he has received at the hands of the Emperor, his friends declaring that he has been shamefully abused, and those who know him only superficially, that he was justly entitled to his fate. A skilled diplomatist sees a meaning in his retirement and the



COUNT CASSINI, RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR.

Photograph by Clineinst, Washington.

riage to an American and long residence on this side of the water have taught him to understand the American character, customs, institutions and traditions.

Moreover, while he was attached to the legation as secretary under Lord Pauncefoot he became the intimate friend of Theodore Roosevelt. The latter and the English secretary sprinted through the suburbs together, rode across country, passed evenings with each other and became warm personal friends.

Sir Michael Herbert has, too, a warm sympathy with the people of the United

sion. The story of Baron von Sternburg's career is almost identical with that of the British Ambassador. He comes from an old Saxon house, his mother was of Scotch origin and he was born at Leeds, England, but his father was engaged in business, but returned to Germany to inherit the title and estates that came to him by the death of the head of his family. Baron or Freiherr von Sternburg—he prefers the older German title—speaks English as fluently as he does his native tongue. He passed the early years of his life in England, where he learned the characteristics of



EDMONDO MAYOR DES PLANCHES, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR.

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States, and has given frequent and happy testimony to his admiration for them. Another fact that commends him to the American people is that his American wife, born a Miss Wilson, has in spite of her many years' residence abroad, remained faithful to her early traditions and to the land of her birth. Lady Herbert is a graceful and accomplished woman, and it was to be expected that she would make an acceptable and brilliant hostess at the British Embassy.

The German Emperor, whose eyes are ever fixed upon America, who has much use of every historical incident or modern legend further to cement the friendship of his country with this did not propose to be outdone by his uncle. With the shared diplomatic sense for which he is noted, he determined to place at the head of his embassy here a man who would equal the British Ambassador in talents, family, wealth, tact, and consideration on the side of the water.

Germany was represented by a well-known, influential diplomatist, a man of long experience in the diplomatic service, who had also a distinguished military career to his credit, but belonged to the old school of diplomacy, and although he had been stationed in nearly every part of the world, remained almost a stranger in his point of view. He was acceptable to this Government, ap-

the Anglo-Saxon race to which he is allied. His long residence in America as a member of the legation and the embassy staff, when it was raised to that rank, gave him the opportunity to become acquainted with the American character.

He is a man of tact, talent and culture and a broad diplomatic experience. When he was previously stationed in America, the President was then a member of the Civil Service Commission and the Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Roosevelt, having many times in common, became warm friends. When Baron von Sternburg was transferred from his post, the President continued a correspondence with him, and last fall the Baron visited Washington as the guest of the President.

He too is married to an American wife, the daughter of a prominent Kentucky family which in the last generation removed to California, where the foundation of the large fortune which the Baron now inherits now enjoys was laid. His wife is a woman of great beauty and influence and occupies a position of honor in the social life of the capital. She was a popular figure at the court of Berlin and her American alliance was one of the reasons that commended Baron von Sternburg to the Emperor as the representative of Germany in this country.

The German envoy is as well equipped for his post as the British Ambassador

regain this position that Count Cassini was appointed to the post.

He is an astute diplomatist and Russia owes much of the power and influence she enjoys in the East to his agency when acting as her Minister in Peking. There are few matters of diplomatic importance between this country and Russia. The Ambassador is more or less a figurehead, and the main thing is that he should be a good figure, head and make an impression commensurate with the immense power he represents.

Countess Cassini is one of the gayest and brightest young women in society. She has the vivacity of a French woman, takes great delight in social doings and is the leader of a certain little clique which is more foreign than American. There is always something going on at the Russian Embassy and one is never bored at the functions arranged by the little Countess, who is both popular and audacious and courts comment. Her adopted father tumors her in every way, and while she is not the doyenne of the corps, she has as many privileges as if she were.

Count Cassini has recently leased the house of Levi P. Morton, which he occupied when he was Vice-President. It is one of the largest dwellings in town and when it was built a quarter of a century ago by Levi P. Morton was regarded as the finest.

Mr. Morton enlarged, improved and decorated the interior handsomely. The dining room will seat a hundred guests and the ballroom is spacious. Count and Countess Cassini purpose going to Europe this summer and in the fall will bring with them many handsome dresses and furnishings for the new embassy.

President Díaz has been singularly fortunate in the diplomatic appointments and the prestige that Mexico has gained under his leadership is due in a large degree to his admirable knowledge of men. His Government is at present represented by one of the most distinguished statesmen of Mexico, who gained his laurels as a soldier in the famous revolution and was the Government's attorney at the trial of Maximilian. Señor Aspiroz is a man of deep learning and high ideals with some of the shrewd social qualities that are generally considered essential for a diplomatist.

When he first came to Washington, there was constant rivalry by both the American and the Belgian envoys at his appointment, because of the part he had taken in Maximilian's trial, and for some time these diplomatic efforts refused to recognize his appointment until within the last few years there was no diplomatic intercourse between Mexico, Belgium and Austria, and when the representatives of those Powers met in Washington they were barely civil to each other.



LADISLAUS HENGELMÜLLER VON HENGERVAR, AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR.

Photograph by Clineinst, Washington.

The Italian Government is at present represented by Signor Mayor des Planches, the son of an ancient family of Savoy,



J. J. JUSSERAND, FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

the past few years has unfortunately made it impossible for her to entertain as she desires.

He was for many years stationed at the Foreign Office in Rome and was the confidential secretary of Depretis, when that statesman was Premier, and later held the same position with Crispi, whose confidence he enjoyed to the fullest extent. Signor Mayor, like his father, is a political writer of ability, and his history of the diplomatic relations between Germany and Italy when Bismarck was in power is accepted as a standard work.

Signora Mayor is a graceful, handsome, tactful woman, who makes an acceptable mistress of the Italian Embassy and has been one of the most indefatigable hostesses of the past season. She is especially popular with the young people of society, whose pleasures she is constantly furthering, and between her and the daughter of the President there exists a warm friendship.

Austria's envoy, who has been stationed at this capital for eight years, was recently rewarded for long and faithful services by promotion from the grade of Minister to that of Ambassador. Mr. Hengelmüller bears no title of nobility, although he comes from one of the oldest and most noted families in Hungary. It was, in fact, his social and political influence that secured his appointment and his rapid advancement in the diplomatic service.

Mrs. Hengelmüller, who was born Countess Borkowsky, is a leader in the Diplomatic Corps and has shown more delight and satisfaction than her husband in his promotion. She has introduced the foreign custom of having the title of Ambassadors on her cards and delights to be addressed as "Madame l'Ambassadeur."

The wife of the Austrian Ambassador is a handsome woman, on the sunny side of 50, who buys her clothes in Paris and is familiar with all the gossip of her class, both in this country and Europe. She entertains constantly and well.

France followed the tactics of England and Germany in appointing as her representative to this country a diplomatist with an American wife, for Mrs. Jusserand, although born in Paris, is the daughter of American parents. M. Jusserand is without doubt one of the most eminent members of the French diplomatic service. He is a scholar and has not been content with mastering the intricacies of diplomacy, but has devoted himself to the study of



BARON SPECK VON STERNBURG, GERMAN AMBASSADOR.

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which was mentioned in the twelfth century. He father was a man of wealth and great influence and political writer and linguist.

history and contributed to the literary world many valuable works upon Anglo-Saxon history.



MANUEL DE ASPIROZ, MEXICAN AMBASSADOR.

Photograph by Clineinst, Washington.

appointment of Ambassadors, but the proposition was never raised without stirring angry passions and acrimonious utterances.

That there should have been so much feeling regarding the establishment of the highest grade of the diplomatic service, is feeling that delayed its establishment for

appointment of his successor not adverse to the superficial observer.

Foreign nations have come finally to take the United States seriously, and more to the United States has become a center for diplomatic negotiations and intrigue which, despite the constant dissensions, is a feature of the new as well as